

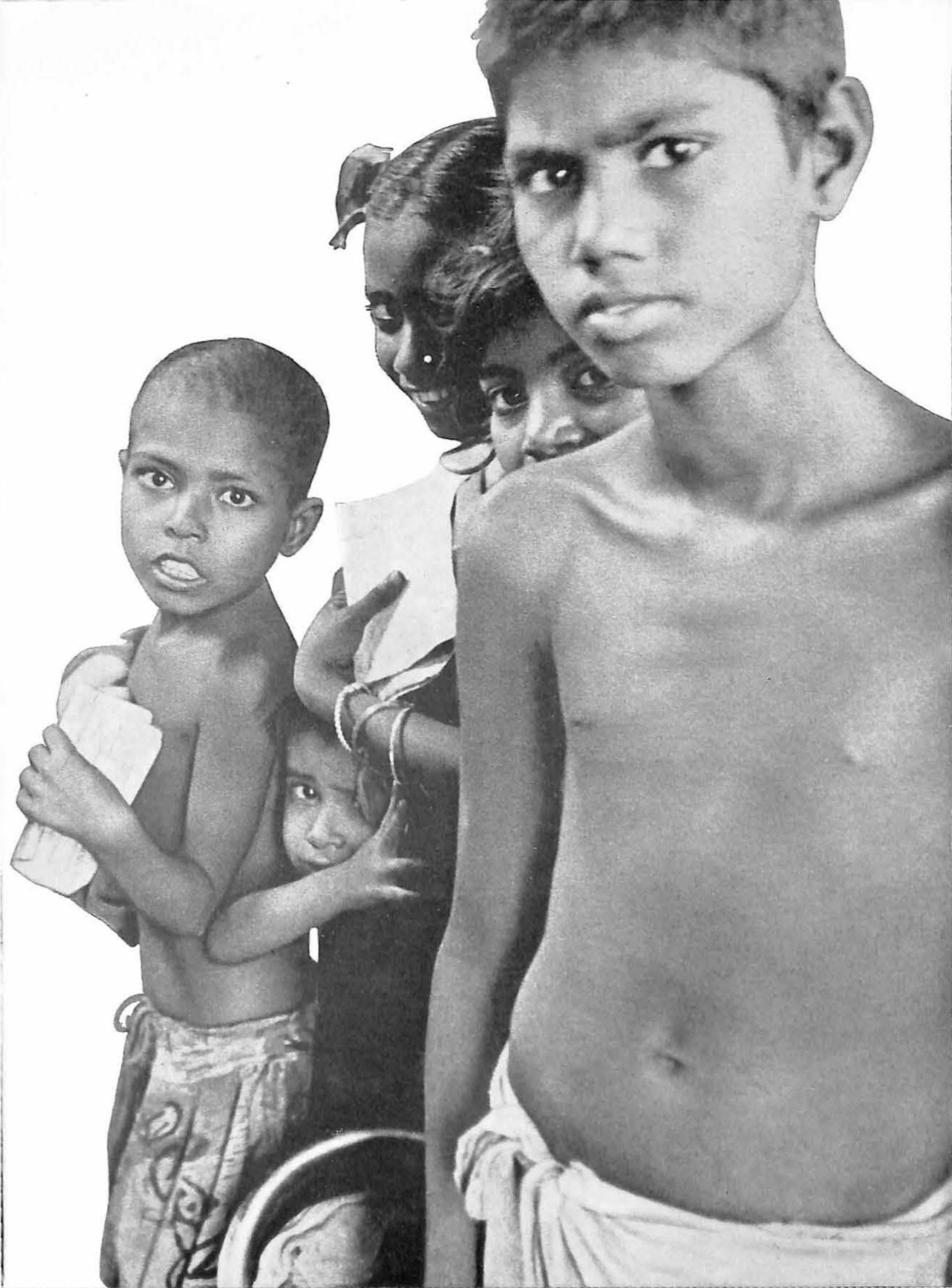
1975

Introducing Lutheran World Service in India





A service
rendered
unto God



The Lutheran World Federation was founded during the aftermath of World War II. While Europe lay in ruins, the Lutheran Churches throughout the world joined together to respond to the tragic plight and the crying need of countless thousands. Regardless of race, creed, nationality or political convictions, the Lutheran World Federation began to provide assistance to the larger family of mankind, on the sole basis of need.

As part of a larger global community of service, Lutheran World Service cooperates with many non-governmental and governmental organizations. Ranging from consultations and the exchange of information to the implementation of jointly sponsored programmes, the LWS maintains contacts in the field as well as at the headquarters level. At the operational level, those in need have benefited from years of partnership between LWS and UN specialized agencies, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA). At the same time, Lutheran World Service also maintains close contact with other non-governmental organizations through its membership in the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA). One outcome of such cooperation is the emergency information office jointly supported by the Catholic Relief Services, the World Council of Churches, OXFAM, the League of Red Cross Societies, and Lutheran World Service.

"A world where a proportionately greater number are getting hungrier, poorer and more destitute while a dwindling minority are becoming richer and richer invites global disaster. Complacency is in this context a crime; despair a vice."

—Prof. Georg Borgstrom

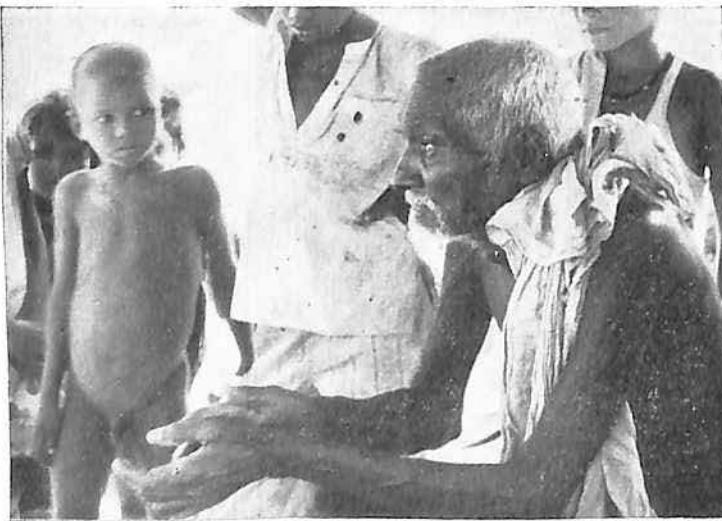


4 Vaishnava towns ravaged by flood

From Our Own Correspondent
The recent flood among the flood victims distributed maize have been distributed. It was further learnt that a target of Rs. 25000 for Chief Minister's relief fund has been fixed out of which a sum of Rs. 16000 has already been distributed with the D.M. Vaishna.



HOMELESS • ALONE



VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS
Appreciating the role of voluntary organisations during the critical times, Mr Jha said that in shape of cooked food, maize, wheat, gram and pulses worth about Rs. 5 lakh were provided by them. He praised the Lutheran World Service organisation which had supplied pieces of dhotis and sarees worth about Rs. 3 lakh.

Mr Maheshwar Patra, S.D.O., Ajipur, said that Lutheraid helped the flood victims.

4.5 Lakh People Hit By Floods In Vaishali

(By Our Staff Reporter)
PATNA, Sept. 6:
About 4.5 lakh people in an area of 350 square miles have been affected by Ganga floods in Vaishali, District Magistrate Prabhakar Jha told this reporter at Hajipur on Thursday.

Six blocks—Raghpur, Mahnar Desari, Bidupur, Janadaha and part of Hajiper Sadar—have been ravaged by floods in Vaishali district.

flood water spread on the n...
d spread

different ways. The district administration had received 7,300 pieces of bush-shirts, 5,000 pieces of frocks, 2,400 full-pants cotton dhotis and 7,000 pieces of saris. The SDO came to Patna World News Room.

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SICK • HUNGRY

Emergency Programmes in India

The recent floods at Patna, Hajipur and Jangipur disrupted the normal lives of over a million people. The Lutheran World Service provided effective assistance to these flood-affected victims by undertaking various relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation measures.

Time-Bound Plan For Rehabilitation Needed, Says LWS

(By Our Staff Reporter)

PATNA, Oct. 4:
Three top officials of Lutheran World Service, who are conducting relief operations in flood-affected parts of Bihar, hold the view that the intensity of damages demands a time-bound programme for rehabilitation of agriculture, road communications and also of those rendered homeless.

The Lutheran World Service officers Dr. Olav Hodne, Mr. G. Ryph and Dr. S. Aske said in an interview yesterday that mere distribution of food packets, clothes and medicines in flood-affected areas would not help in the rebuilding of economy. It is not only the job of government to undertake rehabilitation.

Dr. Mishra said that the World Lutheran Service had contributed relief to the value of Rs. 13 lakh in the district of Vaishali. Youth Congress had contributed about Rs. 2 lakhs. The Lutherans had decided to instal 700 drinking water tube wells in the district. They would also construct 200 houses there.

tilizers and pesticides among farmers. They were planning to benefit 7000 persons under their nutrition programme besides distributing 20,000 saris, 12,000 dhotis, 1000 blankets and 20,000 ready-made garments among the needy. The whole operation would cost about Rs. 15,00,000.

In Patna town Lutheran World Service distributed about 30,000 meals.

Dr. Mishra said that a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs had been sanctioned for relief operations in the district in addition to Rs. 16.5 lakhs already spent. The relief operation would continue till September 30.

The damages to crops were worth Rs. 2.5 crores.

At present 52 relief camps were running which would continue till September 30. The Chief Minister appreciated the voluntary organisations.

The Lutheran World Service distributed food and Rs. 13 lakhs and construct 200 houses.

Swiss Team Promises Relief To Vaishali

HAJIPUR, Oct. 5: World War II headquarters here, Mr. Ryph announced that the Lutheran World Service would send relief materials worth Rs. 23 lakh for rehabilitating the worst flood sufferers of the district, particularly Raghpur, Fatehpur, Bidhupur and Patehpur blocks. He said the LWS would construct houses in the flood-affected areas for the homeless. The team distributed two trucks loads of cooked food, one truck load of biscuits, 26,000 shirts and pants, three thousand pieces of saris and one thousand pieces of dhotis. It also distributed 15,000 blankets.

Mr. Ryph also said that LWS would put up portable pumps in the sinking houses to help flooded people.

Govt.



Patna

For the first time in history, various parts of Patna were submerged. Normal city life came to a standstill and over half a million people, who sought refuge on roof-tops, were affected. Roads and railway lines were completely under water and hundreds of cars were submerged. All tele-communication links with the state capital were totally disrupted. The Lutheran World Service was the first international philanthropic organization to enter Patna township with 40,000 meals of Emergency Rations and one truckload of clothing. Subsequently, with invaluable assistance from Government officials, another 300,000 meals were dispatched. Besides these, the Lutheran World Service contributed over 9,800 bottles of saline water which were utilised by the Government's Health Department.

Hajipur

Hajipur Sub-Division in Vaishali District, was also badly affected. Out of 11 Blocks, 7 Blocks—Raghpur, Mahanar, Bidhupur, Deshri, Jandaha, Pateypur and a part of Hajipur—were flooded affecting 397,334 people and destroying 134.7 sq. miles crops worth Rs. 44,054,400. Shortage of drinking water and lack of medical aid and clothing further aggravated the situation.

The Lutheran World Service has undertaken a Nutrition Programme for 7,000 beneficiaries; distribution of sarees, men's clothing, children's clothing and blankets, disinfection of all wells and construction of a field hospital. 761 people have already been inoculated against typhoid and cholera and another 1795 outpatients treated for various diseases. 508 tubewells, out of a target of 1,000 have already been sunk and 2,500 houses with darma-mat side-walls and tiled roofs are under construction. Under the Food for Work Scheme, roads are being repaired.

Murshidabad

Murshidabad experienced severe disasters. Besides floods, a large area of Jangipur Sub-Division was affected by erosion. The floods affected over 66,000 people and damaged 10,000 acres crops to the value of Rs. 3 million. And land erosion rendered nearly 85,000 (14,050) families homeless.

The Lutheran World Service rose to the occasion and undertook the following :

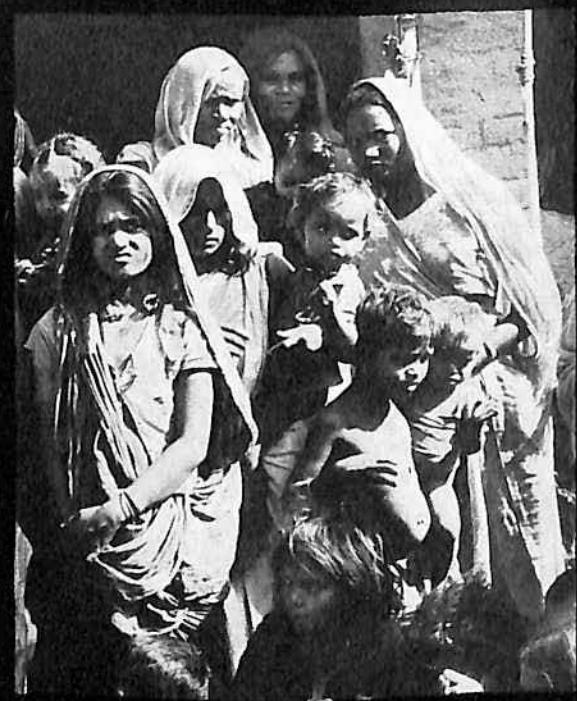
- 1) A special Nutrition Programme for Erosion-Affected People—target 10,000 beneficiaries.
- 2) Flood Emergency Programme—target 10,000 beneficiaries.
- 3) Housing Scheme for Landless Labourers of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of Sagardhigi Block—target 500 houses.
- 4) Housing Scheme for Erosion-Affected People—target 400 houses.



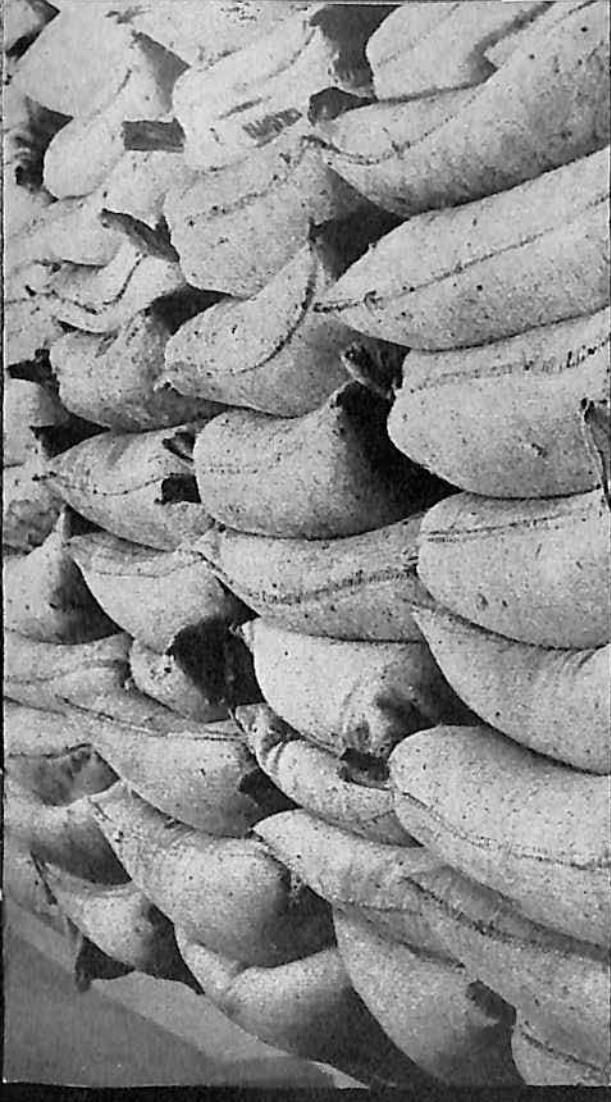
In search of a shelter.



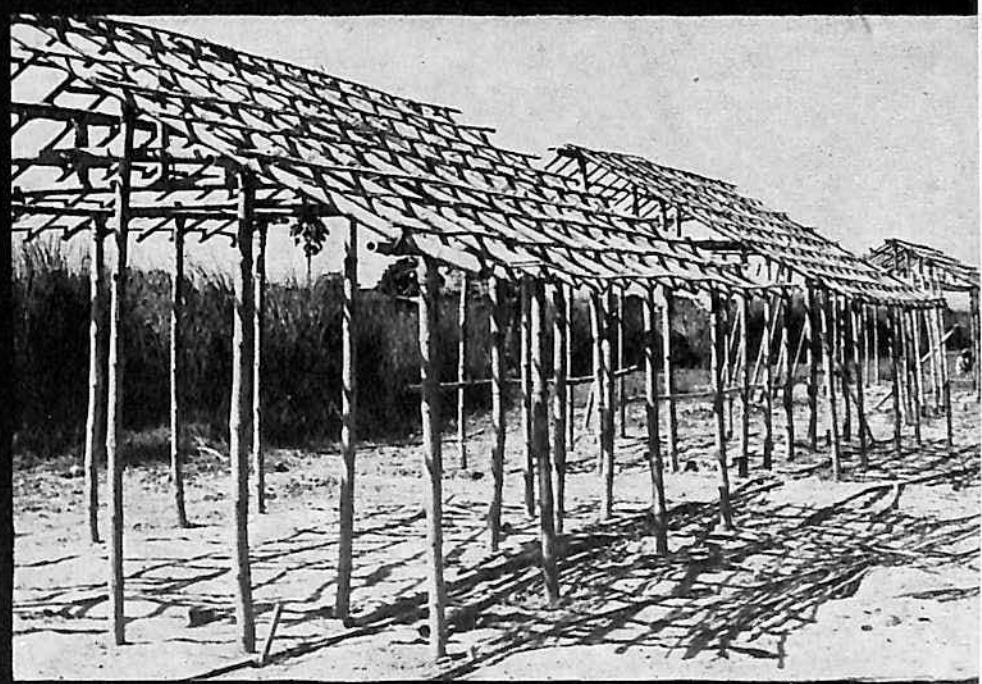
*Something to eat,
something to wear,
somewhere to live.*



The agony of the dispossessed.



A roof over their heads.



Food for the hungry.



*The cup
is full !*



Development Programmes in India

Constructing a future

Hand in hand with its Emergency Programmes, the Lutheran World Service also undertakes long-term development projects. Recognising the futility of mere aid in the context of a problem intimidatingly vast, the LWS's development programmes are planned for sustained growth and are related to the needs and desires of the people concerned. Food and water, shelter, medical care, education and small-scale industries—these are some of the vital areas in which Lutheran World Service is providing assistance. Local participation is invited at all levels from the planning stage to the final implementation—so that the process of development can be carried on by the people themselves.



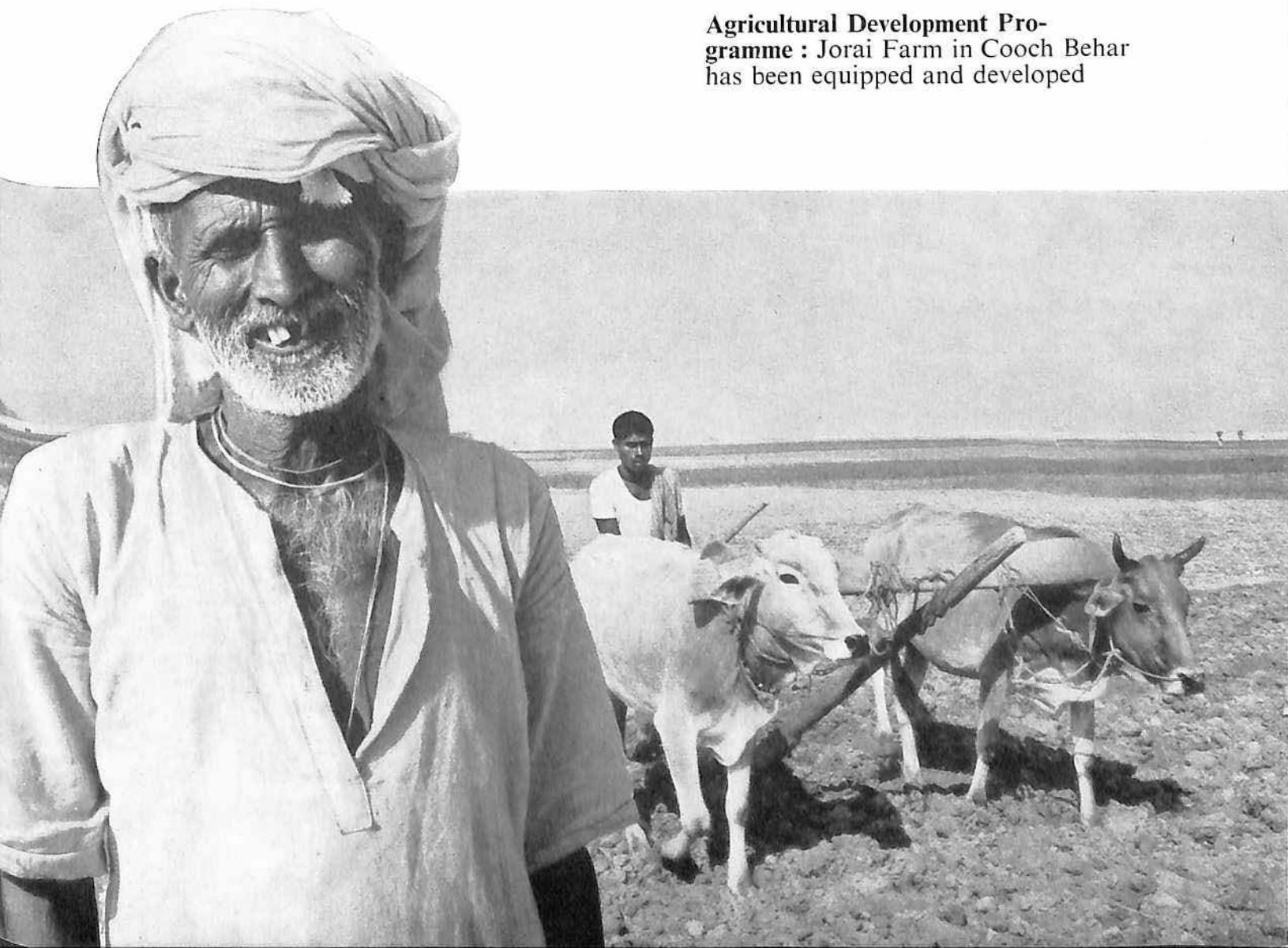
Cooch Behar

The Lutheran World Federation first began to operate in the district of Cooch Behar in North Bengal in collaboration with the Bengal Refugee Service which later on came to be known as the Cooch Behar Refugee Service (CBRS). Its main purpose was to rehabilitate refugees who had poured in from East Pakistan.

Besides this, CBRS undertook various other development programmes:

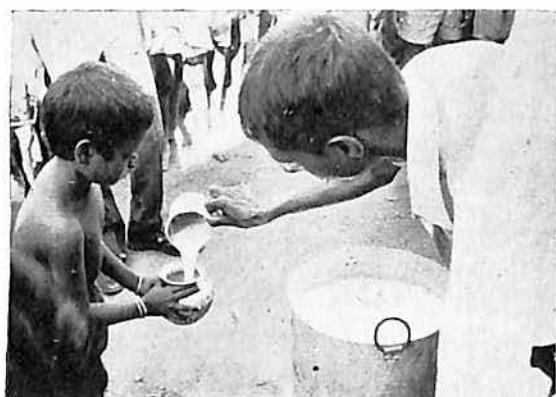
Educational Programme: 76 educational institutions have been built by the CBRS catering to about 45,000 students and manned by a large staff of teachers and other workers. Among these is the Tufanganj College. Formally opened in the month of January, 1972, this college is attached to the University of North Bengal (Siliguri) which has given it official recognition.

Agricultural Development Programme : Jorai Farm in Cooch Behar has been equipped and developed



and since handed over to the Government. Irrigation programmes, including a Mobile Pump Station, have been undertaken. Hundreds of shallow tubewells have been sunk to provide clean drinking water and water for irrigation purposes on a smaller scale.

An Agricultural Institute to train farmers in improved methods of cultivation has been opened in Tufanganj. The Institute first began by offering short courses in the month of January, 1972 and has since been taken over by the Agricultural Department of West Bengal. The first of its kind in North Bengal, the Tufanganj Agricultural Institute is playing a vital role in the development of agriculture in the district.



Small-Scale Industries Development

Programme: The CBRS has established a weaving factory, 3 smaller weaving sections and several 'dorji' or sewing sections; a workshop; a bakery; a khadi centre; a soap factory; a tin-trunk manufacturing factory and many other similar industries.

Medical-Aid Programme: Under this programme, the CBRS has established 3 dispensaries and a students' eye clinic besides providing medical treatment and medicines to thousands of refugees in and around Cooch Behar.

At present the Lutheran World Service has started independent operations in Cooch Behar and has undertaken various other development programmes.

To enable flood-affected farmers to resume their farming activities, the Lutheran World Service has distributed nearly 10 tonnes of quality paddy seeds to nearly 2,500 farmers, in addition to vegetable and maize seeds which have been already distributed.

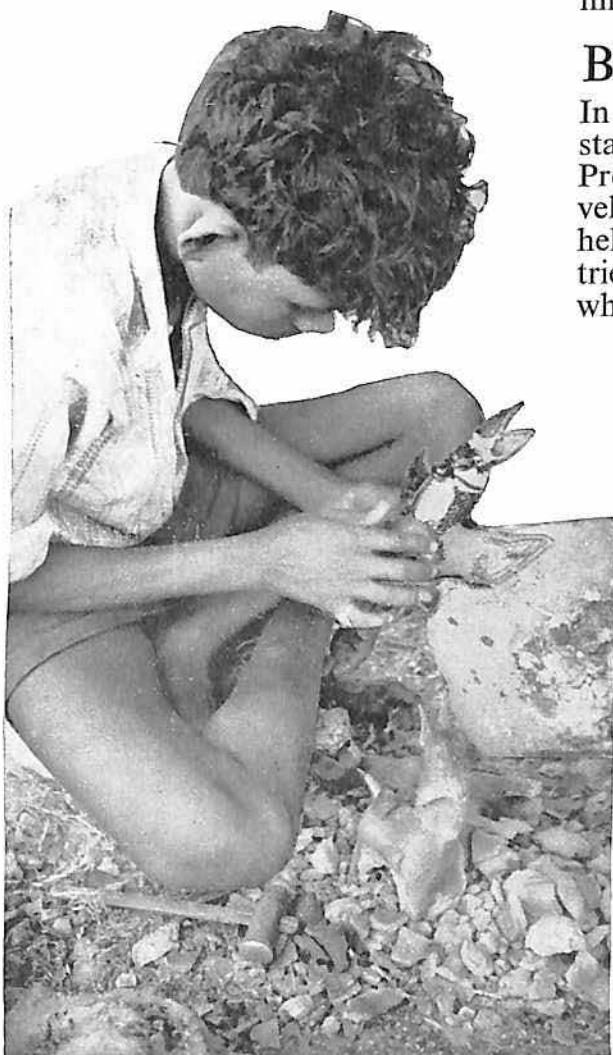
To supplement the farmer's income or provide alternative employment, the Lutheran World Service proposes to introduce Sericulture, Bee-keeping (for honey) and Village and Cottage Handicrafts Industry. At present, while further exploring ways and means of bee-keeping and village crafts, the LWS has begun work on the Sericulture Programme. A number of demonstration plots over a wide area in two districts—Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri—have already been set up. Mulberry saplings/cuttings are being collected

from Malda/Murshidabad and are growing well on the selected soils. And for the technical know-how necessary for the Programme, the LWS is planning to send men and women for a short term training to the Central Research Institute, Berhampur, Sericulture Training Institute, Malda, and Sericulture Nursery, Matigara, Siliguri.

The Lutheran World Service has also set up an out-door clinic for medical care where over 4,000 patients have been treated for various diseases, infectious and non-infectious.

Bhatar

In Bhatar, development activities started towards the end of April, 1975. Providing educational facilities, developing a proper irrigation system, helping in the growth of small industries—these are some of the projects which have been undertaken.



Schools: 6 educational institutions for tribal students have been built. Each school consists of 6 rooms of masonry construction with corrugated galvanized sheets on the roof. A hostel for 60 tribals has also been built in Orgram.

Pilot Project Scheme: In Bhatar, agriculture is the main source of employment and income. Inadequate irrigation facilities render the poor farmers solely dependent on the monsoons. Consequently, they are able to produce only one crop a year. To increase this output to 3 crops a year, a Pilot Project Scheme has been undertaken in Bundhardanga Adivasi Colony. Under this project, the

farmers have been provided with a shallow tubewell and pumpset. Tanks, which have become useless due to continuous silting, are being excavated. Vacant lands are being cleared of weeds and jungles are being turned into vegetable plots. Seeds and fertilisers are being distributed free of cost. And an Agricultural Seed Farm has been newly started to provide better quality seeds and vegetable plants, and to teach improved methods of cultivation.

To promote self-reliance:

Sewing schools have been opened at Nawabnagar and Orgram where shirts, shorts, underwear, frocks and blouses are made out of empty flour bags which have been made available through the Norwegian Church Relief. A cooperative will soon be formed, with the students as members, so that they can independently manage their own affairs.



Simac knitting machines have been purchased for training boys and girls in knitting woollen garments. On completion of training, a co-operative will be formed, and all sales and marketing will be done through the cooperative.

Looms for weaving have been installed in the craft centre at Nawabnagar and Ogram. Training will be given in weaving dhuties, sarees and lungies.

A piggery has been started with Yorkshire breed of pigs to benefit the scheduled castes and tribes. With this assistance, they will be able to improve the breed as well as maintain a piggery of their own.

A bakery has been set up to mass-produce bread for the Nutrition Programme.

A dokra-apprenticeship programme will soon begin. Dokra artisans are famous for their animal figurines, curios, lampstands and ashtrays. To teach others this profitable trade, apprentices will be attached to these artisans.

Housing

Construction of houses has been taken up in 4 Adibasi Colonies. Where existing houses are found in a damaged condition, repairs are being undertaken. To prevent erosion and hence increase durability, the mud walls are being cement-washed.

Medical Aid

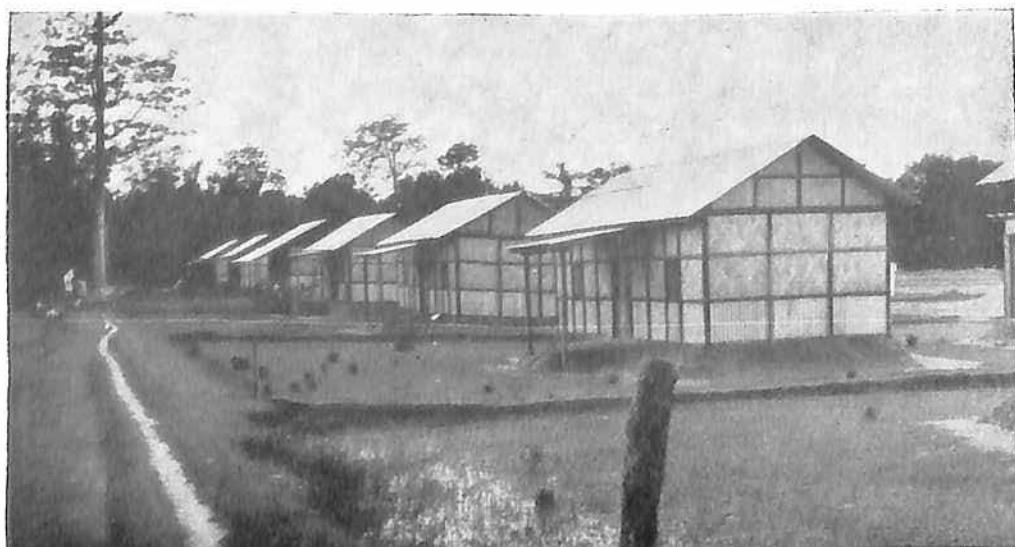
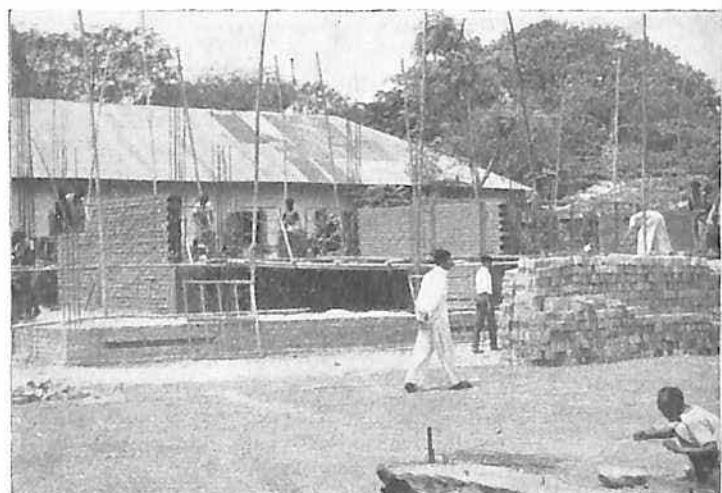
A dispensary and hospital staff quarters have been constructed and will soon begin to function.

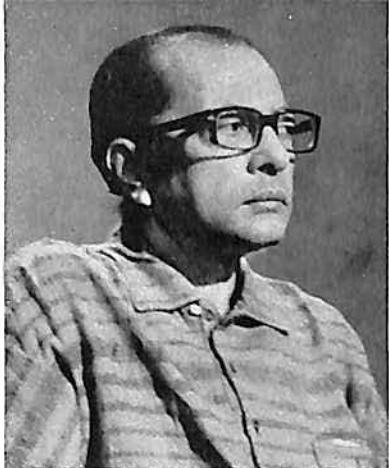


Homes for the Homeless

Murshidabad Housing Scheme

At the request of the Government of West Bengal, 500 houses are being constructed for landless labourers of Sagardighi Block and 400 houses for erosion-affected victims of Jangipur. Each house is 15' × 10' and consists of a tiled roof and 'darma' mat side walls; cost incurred per house is about Rs. 500/-. To meet a portion of the expenses, the Government of West Bengal is contributing Rs. 150/- per house.





The Lutheran World Service works in close collaboration with the Government. Reproduced below is a message from Mr. Bholanath Sen, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Public Works and Housing Departments, Government of West Bengal, and Chairman, Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority. Mr. Sen has always encouraged the Lutheran World Service by taking a keen interest in its diversified activities in the field of social work in West Bengal.

Shri Bholanath Sen
মন্ত্রী

প. ও. গ. বিভাগ
পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার
মহাকরণ

কলিকাতা, ১৮ (খকাল্দি)

D.O. No.....



MINISTER-IN-CHARGE
PUBLIC WORKS AND
HOUSING DEPARTMENTS
GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
WRITERS' BUILDINGS

CALCUTTA, THE December 13, 1975

It is by accident that I know about the activities of the Lutheran World Service in India.

The villages of Bengal, with which I am familiar, have their share of the poor. I have moved among them. From the Government side, we tried to do something for them. But something is always missing in the Government's efforts.

The Lutheran Service, I soon observed, was filling this gap admirably. For the last few years, I have seen their work from close quarters. I have been frequently associated with their work.

They have reached the remotest corner and done social work among villagers, a large number of them tribals, providing the very essential human touch and attention to small details, which as I confessed before, are sometimes lacking in Government effort.

I said, I know about them by accident. One reason is that they never want to make their presence felt and work silently. If another "accident", - I refer to my political life, - had not brought me to the rural areas, I might not have known about them.

That would have been a loss to me. I would have been deprived of a very rich human experience if I did not know about them.

I am glad that the Lutheran World Service is after all telling others what they are doing. People should know and should benefit from their experience and work.

Only good things can come from such work. One of them is inspiration.

B. N. Sen
(B. N. Sen)
Chairman, C.M.D.A.

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